

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim amendments/Status

Claims 1-10 remain pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended by introducing the subject matter of claim 2, and adding the limitation pertaining to the use of a modelling tool (like "Rhapsody"), i.e. by using its constraint adding function for attaching a requirement to a common element containing the set of elements on which the requirement has repercussions (supported by at least page 3, lines 5- 15 of the specification).

Specification

The specification has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Objection

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Rhapsody-4.1 (art of record, "Essential Rhapsody in C++" version 4.1, published January 1, 2003), are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's position re Rhapsody 4.1 seem somewhat mistaken: page 1.9 shows indeed the creation of "Display", but the following pages only teach the addition of a "constructor" (by the way, please note that the "ADD" menu points at a sub-menu comprising 6 functions, but does not show any constraint: see page 1.10 of Rhapsody document). This "constructor has nothing to do with a constraint, the more as in Rhapsody the only means to associate an UML requirement with a model element is to attach it to this element

by using the "ADD New/ Constraint" (see our specification, page 3, lines 5-8). Therefore, this reference cannot provide any information about the requirements and constraints attachment.

As noted above, the Rhapsody 4.1 reference does not teach everything necessary to build requirements attachment (the requirements are generally managed by the DOORS tool, see specification, page 3, lines 2-4), and therefore cannot suggest the claimed traceability method as recited in amended claim 1.

The Rhapsody reference merely discloses basics about creating general purpose projects. Although one can see therein some fields which might be filled in for creating requirements, it even does not suggest how to fill in these fields therefore, i.e. in the way explained in present specification (page 2, lines 11-31). Consequently, this reference does not teach or suggests how to attach the requirements to the model elements (see specification, page 3, lines 5-8).

Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

The rejection of claims 5-6 and 8-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhapsody-4.1 in view of Kobryn (art of record, "Visual Requirements-Driven Development with UML 2.0"), is respectfully traversed.

As already pointed out in the Applicant's response to the first Office Action, Kobryn discloses basics relating to the use of the DOORS tool but does not suggest any solution for performing the traceability in the way disclosed in the instant specification and claimed in amended claim 1. Moreover, as noted hereinabove, Rhapsody 4.1 does not mention any requirement and does not mention any constraint in its "Add New" function.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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